

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A semiconductor photodetection device,
comprising:

5 a semiconductor structure including an optical
absorption layer having a photo-incidence surface on a first
side thereof;

10 a dielectric reflecting layer formed on a second
side of the semiconductor structure opposite to the first
side;

15 a contact electrode surrounding the dielectric
reflecting layer and contacting with the semiconductor
structure; and

20 a close contact electrode covering the dielectric
reflecting layer and contacting with the contact electrode
and the dielectric reflecting layer, the close contact
electrode adhering to the dielectric reflecting layer more
strongly than to the contact electrode.

25 2. A semiconductor photodetection device,
comprising:

25 a semiconductor structure including an optical
absorption layer having a photo-incidence surface on a first
side thereof;

30 a dielectric reflecting layer formed on a second
side of the semiconductor structure opposite to the first
side;

35 a contact electrode surrounding the dielectric
reflecting layer and contacting with the semiconductor
structure;

35 a dielectric coating layer surrounding the contact
electrode; and

35 a close contact electrode covering the contact
electrode and the dielectric coating layer and contacting
with the contact electrode and the dielectric coating layer,
the close contact electrode adhering to the dielectric
coating layer more strongly than to the contact electrode.

3. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 2, wherein said dielectric reflecting layer
and said dielectric coating layer are made of fluoride,
5 oxide or nitride including one or more atoms selected from
the group consisting of Si, Al, Mg, Ti, Zr and Ta.

4. A semiconductor photodetection device,
comprising:

10 a semiconductor structure including an optical
absorption layer having a photo-incidence surface on a first
side thereof;

15 a dielectric reflecting layer formed on a second
side of the semiconductor structure opposite to the first
side;

a contact electrode surrounding the dielectric
reflecting layer and contacting with the semiconductor
structure; and

20 a metal reflecting layer formed within a region
inside the contact electrode;

wherein reactivity of the metal reflecting layer
with the semiconductor material of the semiconductor
structure is lower than reactivity of the contact electrode
with the semiconductor material.

25 5. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 4, wherein said metal reflecting layer
includes transition metal belonging to any group of groups
3A through 8A.

30 6. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 5, wherein said metal reflecting layer
includes one or more atoms selected from the group
consisting of Pt, Ni, TiW and TiN.

35 7. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 4, wherein said metal reflecting layer

comprises a first metal reflecting layer having a thickness thinner than the absorption length at a signal light wavelength, and a second metal reflecting layer formed on the first metal reflecting layer.

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8. A semiconductor photodetection device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said first metal reflecting layer includes transition metal belonging to any group of groups 3A through 8A and said second metal reflecting layer 10 includes transition metal belonging to group 1B or 2B.

9. A semiconductor photodetection device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said first metal reflecting layer includes one or more elements selected from the group 15 consisting of Pt, Ni, TiW and TiN, and said second metal reflecting layer includes one or more atoms selected from the group consisting of Au, Ag and Cu.

10. A semiconductor photodetection device,
20 comprising:

a semiconductor structure including an optical absorption layer having a photo-incidence surface on a first side thereof;

25 a dielectric reflecting layer formed on a second side of the semiconductor structure opposite to the first side;

a contact electrode surrounding the dielectric reflecting layer and contacting with the semiconductor structure;

30 a barrier electrode formed on the periphery of the dielectric reflecting layer; and

a reflecting electrode covering the dielectric reflecting layer and contacting with the barrier electrode and the dielectric reflecting layer.

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11. A semiconductor photodetection device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said dielectric reflecting layer

is made of fluoride, oxide or nitride including one or more atoms selected from the group consisting of Si, Al, Mg, Ti, Zr and Ta.

5 12. A semiconductor photodetection device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said dielectric reflecting layer is made of fluoride, oxide or nitride including one or more atoms selected from the group consisting of Si, Al, Mg, Ti, Zr and Ta.

10 13. A semiconductor photodetection device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said dielectric reflecting layer is made of fluoride, oxide or nitride including one or more atoms selected from the group consisting of Si, Al, Mg, 15 Ti, Zr and Ta.

14. A semiconductor photodetection device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said close contact electrode is made of Ti or Al.

20 15. A semiconductor photodetection device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said close contact electrode is made of Ti or Al.

25 16. A semiconductor photodetection device as claimed in claim 1, further comprises one or more additional reflecting layers made of a dielectric or semiconductor material on the dielectric reflecting layer.

30 17. A semiconductor photodetection device as claimed in claim 2, further comprises one or more additional reflecting layers made of a dielectric or semiconductor material on the dielectric reflecting layer.

35 18. A semiconductor photodetection device as claimed in claim 10, further comprises one or more additional reflecting layers made of a dielectric or

semiconductor material on the dielectric reflecting layer.

19. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 13, wherein said additional reflecting
5 layers are dielectric layers comprising fluoride, oxide or
nitride including one or more atoms selected from the group
consisting of Si, Al, Mg, Ti, Zr and Ta, or semiconductor
layers including Si or Ge.

10 20. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 13, wherein said dielectric reflecting
layer has a refractive index of n_1 and said additional
reflecting layers have a refractive index of n_2 , where $n_2 > n_1$.

15 21. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 14, wherein said dielectric reflecting
layer has a refractive index of n_1 and said additional
reflecting layers have a refractive index of n_2 , where $n_2 > n_1$.

20 22. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 1, wherein said close contact electrode
performs at least partially a function of reflecting
incident light.

25 23. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 2, wherein said close contact electrode
performs at least partially a function of reflecting
incident light.

30 24. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 10, wherein said additional reflecting
electrode includes transition metal belonging to group 1B or
2B.

35 25. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 17, wherein said additional reflecting
layer includes one or more atoms selected from the group

consisting of Au, Ag and Cu.

26. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 10, wherein said metal reflecting layer
5 comprises a first metal reflecting layer having a thickness
less than the absorption length for a wavelength of an
optical signal, and a second metal reflecting layer formed
on the first metal reflecting layer.

10 27. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 19, wherein said first metal reflecting
layer includes transition metal belonging to any of groups
3A through 8A and said second metal reflecting layer
includes transition metal belonging to group 1B or 2B.

15 28. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 20, wherein said first metal reflecting
layer includes one or more elements selected from the group
consisting of Pt, Ni, TiW and TiN, and said second metal
reflecting layer includes one or more atoms selected from
20 the group consisting of Au, Ag and Cu.

25 29. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 10, wherein said barrier electrode has a
larger area than the contact electrode.

30 30. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 1, wherein said contact electrode is of a
ring shape.

30 31. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 2, wherein said contact electrode is of a
ring shape.

35 32. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 4, wherein said contact electrode is of a
ring shape.

33. A semiconductor photodetection device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said contact electrode is of a ring shape.

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34. A semiconductor photodetection device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said contact electrode is formed partially surrounding the dielectric reflecting layer.

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35. A semiconductor photodetection device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said contact electrode is formed partially surrounding the dielectric reflecting layer.

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36. A semiconductor photodetection device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said contact electrode is formed partially surrounding the dielectric reflecting layer.

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37. A semiconductor photodetection device as claimed in claim 10, wherein said contact electrode is formed partially surrounding the dielectric reflecting layer.

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38. A semiconductor photodetection device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said semiconductor structure is mounted on a semiconductor substrate and the photo-incidence surface is placed on the substrate side of the semiconductor structure.

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39. A semiconductor photodetection device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said semiconductor structure is mounted on a semiconductor substrate and the photo-incidence surface is placed on the substrate side of the semiconductor structure.

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40. A semiconductor photodetection device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said semiconductor structure is mounted on a semiconductor substrate and the photo-incidence

surface is placed on the substrate side of the semiconductor structure.

41. A semiconductor photodetection device as
5 claimed in claim 10, wherein said semiconductor structure is
mounted on a semiconductor substrate and the photo-incidence
surface is placed on the substrate side of the semiconductor
structure.

10 42. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 1, wherein said semiconductor structure is
mounted on a semiconductor substrate and the photo-incidence
surface is placed on a side opposite to the substrate of the
semiconductor structure.

15 43. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 2, wherein said semiconductor structure is
mounted on a semiconductor substrate and the photo-incidence
surface is placed on a side opposite to the substrate of the
20 semiconductor structure.

25 44. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 4, wherein said semiconductor structure is
mounted on a semiconductor substrate and the photo-incidence
surface is placed on a side opposite to the substrate of the
semiconductor structure.

30 45. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 10, wherein said semiconductor structure is
mounted on a semiconductor substrate and the photo-incidence
surface is placed on a side opposite to the substrate of the
semiconductor structure.

35 46. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 1, wherein said semiconductor structure
further includes a carrier-multiplier layer, and said
semiconductor photodetection device is an avalanche

photodiode.

47. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 2, wherein said semiconductor structure
5 further includes a carrier-multiplier layer, and said
semiconductor photodetection device is an avalanche
photodiode.

48. A semiconductor photodetection device as
10 claimed in claim 4, wherein said semiconductor structure
further includes a carrier-multiplier layer, and said
semiconductor photodetection device is an avalanche
photodiode.

15 49. A semiconductor photodetection device as
claimed in claim 10, wherein said semiconductor structure
further includes a carrier-multiplier layer, and said
semiconductor photodetection device is an avalanche
photodiode.